the eggshell at least betokened *bicuspis*, so *bicuspis* is here, and who ever heard of *furcula* feeding on alder? It must be *bicuspis*. I went back to the alders in the meadow and examined the terrain anew, and this is what I found.

Eleven feet (I paced it) from the sallow was a narrow footpath running from north to south which swung eastwards past the alder on which I had found the cocoon. So that if a larva, bred on the sallow, had traversed eleven feet of bog on the drier side in a westerly direction till he came to the path, then had turned at right angles (perhaps because he was footsore and found the going easier) and proceeded along the footpath for a little more than ten yards, he would have come within a couple of feet of the cocoon-bearing tree. And that, I believe, is what happened. Colour was lent to this supposition by an exactly similar cocoon of apparently the same age on an alder still nearer to the sallow bush.

The Pussmoth and Kittens often travel considerable distances in their search for suitable pupation sites (though " search " is not the right word, for a larva can see only an inch in front of his nose, and larval pre-pupational travel is governed—so says Allan—partly by time and partly by the histolysis of his tissues). I have found empty cocoons of *D. vinula* twenty yards from the nearest foodplant and this is by no means the record, *teste* the entomological magazines. So perhaps *bicuspis* may yet come my way—though I have no hope of beating the Reverend F. B. Newnham's record: he found *three* larvae in one afternoon! But, then, he was a Man of God; I am but a hoary old sinner.

INSECTIVOROUS SPIDERS.

By Malcolm Burr, D.Sc., F.R.E.S.

A friend of mine in Istanbul, who is no entomologist but a keen gardener, told me that he once saw a butterfly alight upon a flower, and instantly become motionless. When he examined it, he found that a pale green spider was lurking in the flower, that had bitten the butterfly, and killed it instantaneously.

These living traps are common on the countryside round the Bosphorus, generally white or pale green in colour. They lurk motionless inside various kinds of flowers, and kill and devour any insect that falls into the trap.

One fine day at the end of June 1943, I noticed a *V. cardui* lying at an unnatural angle on a *Cistus*. When I picked it up, I felt resistance, and found that it was grasped by a green spider that held it tight. I found some more of the spiders, but when I offered them some butterflies, they were suspicious and did not bite, and dropped off the flower. Once I persuaded one to accept a Skipper.

On another occasion, on 17.7.43, I found a big white spider feeding on a *Tabanus* on a small marguerite in my garden.

At Gök Su I saw one dining off a bee four times its own size; on 26.6.44, and on 2.7.44 in the same place a small green spider on a *Scabious* was eating a bee, and a red and black spider nearby was also eating a bee. I offered it a Marbled White, but it declined it.

[Browning says these spiders belong to the family *Thomasidae*. The colour of a single species will vary according to its background, i.e., the colour of the flower. I have noticed this with our British species. Snow-white on ox-eyed daisies; yellow on yellow flowers, etc.—H. J. D.]

COLLECTING NOTES.

Unusual Pairings.—On 5th August 1945, while I was collecting *Eremobia ochroleuca*, Schf., from Knapweed flowerheads in a grassfield in Hertfordshire, I found, on three occasions, all within a distance of 100 yards, a male *Adopoea sylvestris*, Poda, *in côp.*, with a female *E. ochroleuca*. I boxed all three pairs. Two pairs parted in the boxes but I managed to take home the third pair conjoined in the hope of setting them paired. Unfortunately they parted when I killed them prior to setting them. I shall be pleased to hear of any other pairings observed of butterflies and moths.—Clifford Craufurd, "Denny," Galloway Road, Bishop's Stortford.

A Late Record of Pieris rapae, L., in N. Lancs.—It may be of interest to record that I found a freshly emerged female *Pieris rapae* at rest on stubble in a field near Ulverston on 10th November 1945. This is an exceptionally late record for this part of the world and therefore seems worth noting.—Dr Neville L. Birkett, The Cottage, Kilner Park, Ulverston, Lancs., 4th December 1945.

Noctuae Captures from Yew.—With reference to the query of Messrs Dancy and Savage, in the May number, 1945, on this subject, they ask if other collectors have found yew hedges attractive, and suggest that it is not the berries which formed the attraction. I have noticed this year, for the first time, how attractive yew trees in my garden are; but I would refer them to the *Entomological Magazine*, Vol. II, pp. 205-212, where Mr John Walton, M.E.S., describes how productive yew trees were, at Mickleham near Dorking, in the years 1831, 32, and 33; and how, in the autumn (10th October till 14th November) of the last-named year, he caught upwards of 2000 moths (feasting on the berries), many of which were rare. He gives the names of the species, p. 207, and his method of capture. The yew trees in question were on the skirts of a large beech wood in Norbury Park. Mr T. Bainbrigge Fletcher, R.N., in his note to Messrs Dancy and Savage's article evidently thought that the berries were the attraction, or at least that they could be.—Capt. Alban F. L. Bacon, The Malt House, Burghclere.

A December Record.—In mid-December *Pterophorus monodactyla*, L., was brought to me found floating in a tank of water. Does this species emerge in December? or is it hibernating?—Hy. J. T.

[Hibernating. Second brood emerges about end of September and hibernates, and is often found on Ivy flowers in Autumn and on Sallow in Spring, or at sugar: the first brood emerges about midsummer. An *Oidaematophorus monodactylus* came to a lighted window here one evening in mid-December, during an unusually warm spell, but I made no note of exact date.—T. B. F.]